From: Powers, John

To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'

Date: 12/7/01 3:43pm **Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I believe the proposed DOJ settlement with Microsoft represents a brazen and shameless betrayal of the public interest.

Particularly onerous and revealing is the proposal that part of Microsoft's 'punishment' will be to 'donate' software to public schools who could not afford to otherwise purchase it. This is like telling Microsoft it's punishment for illegal behavior which netted it a market monopoly and countless billions of dollars is to print and distribute play money. It will also serve to continue its monopoly by locking yet another user base into its product monopoly at a tender age. A more suitable punishment would be to require Microsoft to purchase a competitor's products and install them in these schools.

DOJ attorneys are either gutless idiots, or have been bought and paid for by Microsoft's political donations. This so-called settlement is a transparent sham, and yet another indication of the extent to which our core political institutions have been infected by the insidious rot of political bribery masquerading under the guise of 'political contributions'.

I am disgusted and ashamed of this legal farce which amounts to nothing more than a license to continue business as usual by one of the most viscious and amoral corporations on earth.

John S. Powers